



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Vol. 10, Issue 50

## FORGIVENESS – Jesus Demands It, How Are We Doing?

We may all know someone who's spent years in bondage because they were unable or unwilling to forgive someone or even themselves, how sad. When they finally understand and applied Biblical forgiveness, they experienced an incredible and wonderful freedom.

Of all the human qualities that make men in any sense like God, none is more divine than forgiveness. God is a God of forgiveness. In fact, forgiveness is a major component of our faith. It is impossible to exercise forgiveness if we refuse to relinquish our rights for the good of others. This is a huge point. I love reading [Romans chapter 12](#) on being a living sacrifice. I encourage you this week to study and mediate on this chapter.

Let's review what our Lord teaches us about the importance of Biblical forgiveness. In [Matthew chapter 6](#), Jesus teaches us the Lord's Prayer. In [verse 12](#) Jesus tells us to, *"forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."* In [verses 14 -15](#), *"for if you forgive men when they sin against you, you're heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins."* This is a strong warning from our Lord about forgiveness, if we refuse to forgive others, God will also refuse to forgive us. *Whenever we ask God to forgive us our sins, we should ask ourselves "Have I forgiven the people who have wronged me"? Let's make this a part of our daily prayer life.*

[Ephesians 4:32](#), *"be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* When we experienced God's forgiveness, then we will have a readiness to forgive others. Also read [Colossians 3:13](#).

In [Matthew 18](#), Jesus tells us about the parable of the unforgiving debtor. Peter asked Jesus *"how many times shall I forgive?"* Jesus gives him a quick answer; *"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy - seven times."* In other words, you forgive as many times as someone sins against you. **Just keep on endlessly forgiving.**

As we study and apply scripture, we learn that failure to forgive is unthinkable as a believer. It doesn't matter what the issue is, how big is the offense, **a failure to forgive is an open act of disobedience.** In doing some research, I found 110 examples in scripture about the importance of forgiveness. Forgiveness, because of its significance and importance is dealt with at great length in Scripture.

The Bible tells us a lot about the negative consequences of having an unforgiving heart, I want to review just 4 reasons;

*continued ...*

## Ministry Directory:

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132  
[lynnjimnelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimnelson@gmail.com)

### Children's Church Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:  
815.575.6122  
[pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)

### Children's Nursery Ministry

Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799  
[fugate.sara@gmail.com](mailto:fugate.sara@gmail.com)

### Finance Administration

Pete Manship (Treasurer):  
715.755.3330  
[financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org](mailto:financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org)

### GriefShare Ministry

Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431  
[conjoh1@gmail.com](mailto:conjoh1@gmail.com)

### Meal Relief Ministry

Diane McMahon:  
715.453.8123  
[dedewiz@gmail.com](mailto:dedewiz@gmail.com)

### Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner:  
715.557.0661  
[lrnilner@gmail.com](mailto:lrnilner@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
[djholm@lakeland.ws](mailto:djholm@lakeland.ws)

### Sunday Meal Services

Barb Manship: 612.804.9793  
or 715.755.3330  
[barb@pbmpkmanship.com](mailto:barb@pbmpkmanship.com)

### Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882  
[behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
[jmabee@centurytel.net](mailto:jmabee@centurytel.net)

### Youth Group Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:  
815.575.6122  
[pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)

1. You are in bondage to the past as un-forgiveness imprisons you in the past.
2. You become very bitter.
3. You open the door to Satan and his attacks. One commentator wrote; *"that most of the ground Satan gains in our lives is due to un-forgiveness."* Wow! that caught my full attention.
4. You lose a deeper fellowship with our Lord.

A few examples of forgiveness in the Bible includes the Prodigal Son, the book of Philemon is all about forgiveness. And the greatest example of forgiveness is Christ dying for us on the cross, see [Luke 23:33](#) where he cries out *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

As we pull all of this together, you get the very clear message that God is a forgiving God and we as believers are to be a forgiving people!! As believers, we are now reconciled to the Lord Jesus Christ, we now have the capacity for Biblical forgiveness. We are a new creation and have the indwelling Spirit which gives us the ability to forgive. Please review the following verses, [2 Corinthians 5:17](#), [Acts 2:38](#), [Romans 8:9](#), and [1 Corinthians 3:16](#). It's important to remember that we must forgive from our heart, forgiveness is not just a mere intellectual accent. As it is with Saving Faith, true Biblical forgiveness includes; the mind, the heart, and our will. In other words, true forgiveness produces a change in behavior or what the Bible calls fruit.

The world is ripped to shreds everywhere from marriages to nations because people can't forgive. Can you imagine a world where everyone has a forgiving heart!

Forgiveness is for our benefit. The other person's behavior may never change. It's up to God - not us - to change others. Our responsibility is to be set free from the pressure and weight of an unforgiving attitude. Whatever our pain or situation, we cannot afford to hold on to an unforgiving spirit. We must get involved in the process of releasing others from the debts we feel they owe us. If we keep our eyes on Jesus who forgave us, it will be a liberating force like nothing we've ever experienced.

Thomas Watson, a Puritan Preacher even linked forgiveness to assurance of salvation. He quoted the following; *"We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven. Let us look into our hearts and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt that God has forgiven us."* As we study scripture, we come to know as believers that God is transforming us more and more into His image, (this process is called progressive sanctification) and we are never more like Him than when we forgive. The Bible makes it very clear that we must forgive others.

I recently read a prayer on forgiveness from Dr. Charles Stanley. I pray this will be helpful to you.

*Lord, I forgive (name of person) for (name the specifics). I claim authority over the enemy and take back the ground I've allowed Satan to gain because of my attitude toward (the person). I give this area of my life back to the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray this in His name and the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Your brother in Christ, Jim Nelson

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (ESV)*

RESOURCE CENTER HIGHLIGHT



"Wendell Kimbrough is a songwriter and worship leader in southern Alabama who believes church music should simply be good music that forms us as we sing it together. Drawing on the sounds of American folk and soul music, Wendell writes scripturally-rich songs with singable, memorable melodies." Check out his album, **Psalms We Sing Together**, now in the Resource Center!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



We are still on the hunt for some nursery support at Immerse, one teacher's assistant, and one teacher substitute who can fill in for several weeks in Oct/Nov. Please contact Pastor Chandler if the Spirit is spurring you on to volunteer.

**\*\*Immerse start time change\*\***

Immerse will now begin at 6:15 pm (in the past it was 6:30.) Please help us spread the word.

MINISTRY FAIR

Many of you had an opportunity to check out a variety of ministries offered here at New Life last Sunday. Please feel free to contact people from the [Ministry Directory](#) if you missed the Ministry Fair or if you still have questions about any ministry you may feel called to serve.

APPRECIATION

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who showed up on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> to help with the cleaning of the church!

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

Find Links to:  
 · *Events* · *Sermons Online* · *New Life Connect* · *Set Lists* · & *More*

New Life now has an Instagram account.  
 Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Pastoral Eldership Team:

- Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982  
[galatiansii20@yahoo.com](mailto:galatiansii20@yahoo.com)
- Pastor Chandler Wiley 815.575.6122  
[pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)
- Cory Mattson ~ Secretary: 715.417.0945
- Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
- Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
- Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
- Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
- Rene Milner 715.557.0185
- Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

- Sep 17 **Forge Ministry** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
6:30 - 8:00 pm at NLCC
- Sep 20 **Immerse** (all ages)  
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC
- Sep 21 **Men's Bible Study**  
6:30 am at NLCC
- Sep 21 **Women's Bible Study**  
9:30 am at NLCC
- Sep 21 **GriefShare Evening Meeting**  
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

- Sep 24 Meal Team #6
- Oct 1 Potluck Team #2

Join us for Fellowship and a Meal after our service today!



## Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,  
[Mark 14:1-11](#)

## Sermon Notes:

